

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 04099 01 OF 02 270824Z

ACTION EPA-04

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CIAE-00 DOTE-00 HEW-06 HUD-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03
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OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 TRSE-00 USIA-15 COME-00 AGRE-00
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1815

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 4099

DEPARTMENT FOR EPA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CCMS, OVIP, SW

SUBJECT: ANALYSIS OF CURRENT ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES IN WESTERN EUROPE;
VISIT OF EPA OFFICIALS (DOUGLAS COSTLE AND BARBARA BLUM)

REF: STATE 216476

1. THE SWEDISH NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION BOARD (SNV) IS THE CENTRAL ADMINISTRATIVE AUTHORITY FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION INCLUDING AIR AND WATER, EXTERIOR REFUSE COLLECTION, OUTDOOR LIFE, HUNTING AND WILDLIFE, SUPERVISION OF HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTALLY DANGEROUS PRODUCTS, AND THE ADVANCEMENT AND PROMOTION OF GOAL-ORIENTED ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH. THE SNV'S APPROPRIATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH WAS 32.9 MILLION SKR. FOR 1977/78; THE BUDGET REQUEST FOR 1978/79 IS 42 MILLION SKR. SWEDEN'S ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES, ORGANIZATION, PROGRAMS, AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATIVE RELATIONS ARE DESCRIBED IN 1975 STOCKHOLM A-87.

2. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION IS PROVIDED IN RESPONSE TO
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 04099 01 OF 02 270824Z

PARAGRAPH 3, REFTEL:

A. ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRESS IN LAST YEAR (SELECTED EXAMPLES)

1. THE EFFECT OF TILLAGE MEASURES IN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY ON THE SUPPLY OF NITROGEN AND PHOSPHORUS TO SURFACE AND GROUND WATER HAS BEEN STUDIED AND A NITROGEN LEACHING FORECAST FOR 1977 HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. SWEDISH FARMERS ESTIMATE THEIR CROP LOSSES FROM NITROGEN LEACHING AT 120 MILLION CROWNS PER YEAR.

(2) THE CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OF WATER IN SWEDISH RIVERS AND THE TRANSPORT OF VARIOUS SUBSTANCES IN THE RIVERS TO THE SWEDISH COASTS HAVE BEEN DETERMINED. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WATER QUALITY, NATURAL CONDITIONS AND LAND USE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED. THESE RESULTS CONSTITUTE AN IMPORTANT BASE FOR WATER RESOURCE PLANNING IN SWEDEN.

(3) STUDIES ON LONG RANGE TRANSPORT OF AIR POLLUTANTS HAVE CONTINUED. DURING PERIODS OF HIGH ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION (EPISODES), SWEDISH RESEARCHERS HAVE BEEN ABLE TO IDENTIFY TWO ESSENTIALLY DIFFERENT PICTURES: (A) EPISODES WITH WEAKLY ACID PARTICLES WITH A HIGH CONTENT OF SULFUR, NITRATES, METALS AND SOOT, AND (B) STRONGLY ACID PARTICLES WITH A HIGH CONTENT OF SULFUR, BUT WITH A LOW CONTENT OF NITRATES, METALS AND SOOT. THE DATA OBTAINED PROVIDE A BASIS FOR THE CALCULATION OF THE CHEMICAL STRESS ON MAN AND THE ENVIRONMENT AS WELL AS ASSISTING IN THE PLANNING OF EMISSION LIMITING MEASURES.

(4) PRELIMINARY EXPERIMENTS WITH OZONE-SENSITIVE INDICATOR PLANTS HAVE SHOWN THAT HIGH OZONE CONTENT IN THE AIR, WHICH APPEARS PERIODICALLY ON THE SWEDISH WEST COAST, CAUSE DAMAGE TO THE PLANTS.

(5) LABORATORY TESTS OF ALTERNATIVE PESTICIDES HAVE SHOWN THAT EXTRACTS FROM TOMATO PLANTS CAN BE USED TO COMBAT THE CABBAGE MOTH.

(6) A COMPREHENSIVE REPORT ON THE EFFECT OF DIFFERENT FORESTRY METHODS ON OUTDOOR LIFE WAS COMPLETED. A COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF WATER POWER PLANT EXPANSION HAS BEEN PREPARED. THE ANALYSIS IS IMPORTANT IN CONNECTION WITH THE FUTURE DECISION ON SWEDISH ENERGY POLICY TO BE TAKEN IN 1978.

(7) A METHODOLOGY OF MAPPING LAND AND VEGETATION WAS DEVELOPED
UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STOCKH 04099 01 OF 02 270824Z

DURING THE PAST YEAR. A MODEL FOR LANDSCAPE ANALYSIS, TO BE USED IN MUNICIPAL PHYSICAL PLANNING, WAS FINISHED WITH THE HELP OF THE LINKOPING MUNICIPALITY.

B. CURRENT GOVERNMENTAL AND NATIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARD ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY GOALS

(1) THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE SWEDISH PEOPLE HAS ALWAYS
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BEEN STRONG. THE BEGINNING OF A NATIONAL CONCERN FOR THE ENVIRONMENT PROBABLY DATES FROM 1909 WHEN SWEDEN ESTABLISHED THE FIRST NATIONAL PARK. IN THE SAME YEAR, THE SWEDISH VOLUNTARY BODY FOR NATURE CONSERVATION WAS FOUNDED. NINE YEARS LATER THE WATER LAW WAS ENACTED AND IT CONTAINED A NUMBER OF REGULATIONS OF SIGNIFICANCE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. MORE THAN 25 LAWS AND REGULATIONS HAVE BEEN ISSUED SINCE 1918 GOVERNING SUCH AREAS AS HUNTING, MONUMENTS, REFUSE HANDLING, AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES, DUMPING, WATER PURIFICATION, AUTO EXHAUST EMISSIONS, THE SULFUR CONTENT OF STACK GASES, REGULATION OF SNOW SCOOTERS, THE INTERNATIONAL TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS MATERIALS, AND WORKER PROTECTION LEGISLATION. THE ENVIRONMENTAL LAW OF 1964 ESTABLISHED THAT NATURE CONSTITUTES A NATIONAL RESOURCE WHICH SHOULD BE PROTECTED AND PRESERVED AND THAT THE ENVIRONMENT IS LIKEWISE BOTH A NATIONAL AND A COMMUNAL CONCERN.

(2) SWEDISH CONCERN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MAY BE SEEN IN TERMS OF FINANCIAL INVESTMENT. FROM 1969 TO 1974, ABOUT 2.4 BILLION SWEDISH CROWNS HAVE BEEN SPENT ON MUNICIPAL PURIFICATION PLANTS. SWEDISH INDUSTRIES, ALSO CONSCIOUS OF THE NEED TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT, HAVE INVESTED ABOUT 2.2 BILLION SWEDISH CROWNS IN THE TEN YEAR PERIOD ENDING IN 1974. THE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION BOARD ESTIMATES THAT NEARLY ONE BILLION CROWNS WERE INVESTED ANNUALLY IN SWEDEN FROM 1969 TO 1974 FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. OPERATIONAL AND CAPITAL COSTS IN MUNICIPALITIES AND INDUSTRIES AT THE PRESENT TIME MAY BE ESTIMATED AT 1.5 TO 2 BILLION CROWNS PER YEAR. THIS AMOUNT CORRESPONDS TO ABOUT 0.7 PERCENT OF THE GNP FOR 1974.

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PAGE 01 STOCKH 04099 02 OF 02 270918Z
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1816
INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY OSLO

UNCLAS SECTION 2 OF 2 STOCKHOLM 4099

DEPARTMENT FOR EPA

(3) SWEDEN'S MAIN EFFORT IN ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION HAS BEEN TO CLEAN UP OLD SOURCES OF POLLUTION AND LIMIT EMISSIONS FROM OTHER SOURCES. ACCORDING TO THE SNV THE EMISSION OF ORGANIC AND SUSPENDED SUBSTANCES INTO LAKES AND RIVERS DECREASED BY 50 PERCENT DURING THE YEARS FROM 1969 TO 1974. PARTICULATE EMISSION INTO THE ATMOSPHERE WAS ALSO HALVED DURING THIS SAME TIME. THE RELEASE OF SULFUR POLLUTANTS HAS BEEN REDUCED, HOWEVER, THE DECREASE HAS BEEN MODEST. DURING THE PERIOD FROM 1969 TO 1974, INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INCREASED BY 20 PERCENT WITH THE LARGEST GAINS IN THE PULP AND PAPER INDUSTRY AND IRON AND STEEL PRODUCTION. A CORRESPONDING INCREASE IN POLLUTION WAS PREVENTED BY THE INSTALLATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION MEASURES,

USE OF BETTER EQUIPMENT, AND CLOSING OLDER POLLUTING PLANTS
(SUCH AS SULFITE PULP AND PAPER PLANTS).

(4) SNV'S BUDGET FOR 1978/79, REQUESTS FUNDS FOR A PROGRAM TO
SUPERVISE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY. THE INTENT IS TO CONDUCT CON-
TINUS TESTS AND STUDIES AT MEASURING STATIONS AND OBSERVATION AREAS
ALL OVER SWEDEN TO DETERMINE HOW THE AIR, SOIL AND WATER IS AFFECTED
BY POLLUTANTS. ANOTHER OBJECTIVE IS TO SURVEY HOW DIFFERENT POLLUTAN
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PAGE 02 STOCKH 04099 02 OF 02 270918Z

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ARE TRANSPORTED IN AND BETWEEN THE AIR-LAND-WATER ENVIRONMENTS.

C. AREAS OF COMMON CONCERN BETWEEN SWEDEN AND THE U.S. SWEDEN'S
ENVIRONMENTAL AUTHORITIES ARE INTERESTED IN COOPERATION WITH THE
UNITED STATES TO HELP SOLVE OR AMELIORATE SUCH PROBLEMS AS OZONE
DEPLETION, MARINE POLLUTION, LONG RANGE TRANSPORT OF AIR POLLUTANTS,
CUMMULATIVE EFFECTS OF LONG TERM FOSSILE FUEL USE, THE REGULATION
AND CONTROL OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES, AND THE USE OF CHEMICAL PESTICIDES
AND FERTILIZERS IN AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY. SWEDEN PARTICITES
ACTIVELY IN THOSE INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS CONCERNED WITH GLOBAL
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS AND PROGRAMS. SWEDISH RESEARCHERS HAVE MUCH
TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE SOLUTION OF COMMON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS.

D. CHANGES IN NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS OR LEADERSHIP
WITHIN THIS YEAR. NO SIGNIFICANT CHANGES HAVE OCCURRED. THE
SWEDISH NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION BOARD WAS ESTABLISHED CN 1967
AND IS HEADED BY ITS FIRST AND ONLY DIRECTOR GENERL, VALFRWD PAULSSON
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3. OFFICIALS AT THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO
MRS. BLUM'S PLAN TO VISIT SWEDEN. DIRECTOR GENERAL VALFRID PAULSSON,
SNV, WELCOMES DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR BLUM. OFFICIALS AT THE SWEDISH
BOARD FOR TECHNICAL DEVELOPMENT ALSO HOPE TO MEET MRS. BLUM.

4. PLEASE PROVIDE TRAVEL SCHEDULE AS SOON AS AVAILABLE.

5. AND PLEASE CONVEY TO BARBARA BLUM THAT POLLY AND I EAGERLY
AWAIT HER ARRIVAL HERE. SHE WILL STAY IN THE RESIDENCE WITH US.
KENNE
DY-MINOTT

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Message Attributes

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